

### **REMARKS**

Claims 3, 6-9, 15, 16, 22-24, and 26-32 are pending after this amendment.

Applicants have amended claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 15, 22-24, and 26-30 in order to more particularly define the invention. The amendments were not necessitated by the claim rejections. Applicants make no admission as to the patentability or unpatentability of the originally filed claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-14, 17-21, 25, and 33-53 have been cancelled.

The amendments and remarks presented herein are in response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2006.

The Examiner objected to claim 18 because of informalities. Claim 18 has been cancelled.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 10-14, 25, 26, 33, 34, 50, and 52 under 35 USC 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Padawer. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 26 so that they depend from claim 31, and thereby incorporate all of the limitations of claim 31. Since claim 31 has been allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 26 are also allowable.

Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-2, 4-5, 10-14, 25, 33-34, 50, and 52.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-19, 49, and 51 under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Padawer in view of Gerszberg. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 15 so that it depends from claim 31, and thereby incorporates all of the limitations of claim 31. Claim 16 depends from claim 15, and thereby incorporates all of the limitations of claim 31 as well. Since claim 31 has been allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 16 are also allowable.

Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 17-19, 49, and 51.

The Examiner rejected claims 20-21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Padawer in view of Urs. Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 20-21.

The Examiner rejected claims 27-30 under 35 USC 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Hawkins. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have amended claims 27-30 so that they depend from claim 31, and thereby incorporate all of the limitations of claim 31. Since claim 31 has been allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27-30 are also allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 35-38 under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Padawer in view of Retter. Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 35-38.

The Examiner rejected claims 39-45, 47, 48, and 53 under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Padawer in view of Becker. Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 39-45, 47, 48, and 53.

The Examiner rejected claim 46 under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Padawer in view of Salomaki. Without making any admission as to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claim 46.

The Examiner objected to claims 6-9 and 22-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 6-9 and 22-24 have been so rewritten, and are hereby submitted to be allowable.

Claims 31-32 have been allowed.

Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce any cancelled claims in this or another application.

On the basis of the above amendments, consideration of this application and the early allowance of all claims herein are requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above amendments and remarks, or if the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with Applicants' representative would help to advance the prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
JEFFREY C. HAWKINS ET  
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